

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A strip dispenser comprising a container for holding at least one movable strip, a cover connected to the container, an extension connected to ~~the~~ a lever and extending into the container, a tip of the extension having a friction surface for engaging the at least one strip within the container, whereby moving the cover moves the ~~extension tip tip of the extension~~ in the container and slides the ~~extension tip tip of the extension~~ outward from the container.
2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cover is a the lever and is pivoted on a hinge connected to the container.
3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extension extends in a direction from the hinge opposite a direction of the lever.
4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the friction surface is one on a side of the extension opposite from the top of the lever and not another side of the extension.
5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a dispensing opening at one end of the container and a closure connected to the lever for moving with the lever and closing the opening when the lever is aligned with the container, and for uncovering the opening when an end of the lever is moved away from the container.
6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the lever is a lid on an upper surface of the container for opening at least a part of the upper surface of the container.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the extension is flexible and has a relatively slippery surface on a side opposite the friction surface for sliding over a next adjacent strip.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the at least one strip comprises a stack of aligned strips, and wherein a top strip in the stack slides along a next adjacent strip outward through the opening when the lever is moved.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the dispensing opening extends substantially over an entire end of the container.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the lever comprises a lid hinged at one end to a central portion of a top of the container and extending outward to the opening in the end of the container for exposing at least a portion of the stack of strips in the container.

11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising links and a lever connected between the cover and the extension, and wherein the cover is a slide connected to the link and connected to the container for sliding the cover rearward on the container and uncovering an opening, and for moving the links, the lever and the extension and moving the friction surface on the tip of the extension and the at least one strip forward in the container in the direction of the opening.

12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising living hinges interconnecting the slide, the links and the lever, and wherein the lever is pivoted on the container at an end of the lever remote from the links, and at an end of the container base remote from the opening.

13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a gear connected to the container for turning the extension as the gear is turned for moving the at least one strip.

14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a slide connected to the container for sliding in a first direction to expose a dispensing opening, and a rack on an inside of the slide for turning the gear and moving the strip when sliding the slide in the first direction and for sliding the slide in a second direction toward one end and closing the dispensing opening, and turning the gear and the extension for sliding the extension rearward over a next adjacent strip when the slide moves in the second direction.

15. (Currently amended) A method of dispensing a strip, comprising providing a container and a dispensing opening in the container, placing at least one strip in the container, engaging the at least one strip with a friction surface on a tip of an extension extending into the container, moving a lever connected to the container, opening the dispensing opening, moving the extension and the tip in the direction of the dispensing opening, and moving the at least one strip toward the dispensing opening and exposing the at least one strip through the opening, grasping and removing the exposed strip, moving the lever and the extension in an opposite direction and sliding the side of the ~~tip~~ tip opposite the friction surface over the at least one strip and closing the dispensing opening.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein initiating of the moving of the lever moves the tip of the extension inward in the container and toward the at least one strip, and wherein completing the moving of the lever and extension in the opposite direction moves the tip of the extension away from a next adjacent at least one strip.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising opening and closing the dispensing opening by moving the lever.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising sliding a slide for opening and closing the dispensing opening and moving the lever and the extension with the slide.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the lever and the extension are connected to a gear in a cover of the container, and wherein sliding the slide moves a rack across the gear and turns the gear for the moving of the lever and the extension.

20. (Previously presented) A strip dispensing method, comprising providing a container holding several strips, moving a cover on the container, moving an extension connected to the cover and extending into the container, providing a tip of the extension with a friction surface for engaging an upper strip within the container, whereby moving the cover moves the extension tip in the container and slides the upper strip outward through an end opening in the container.